

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6151

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4985

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT

SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND JUNTA

REF: SANTIAGO 4959

1. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC SECRETARY GENERAL CERDA BRIEFLY TOLD ME TODAY ABOUT MEETING OCT 10 BETWEEN PDC LEADERS AND THE

JUNTA. APPARENTLY THE JUNTA TOOK CONSIDERABLE PAINS TO DESCRIBE ITS EXTREME RELUCTANCE TO INTERVENE AND ITS DESIRE TO RETURN CHILE TO DEMOCRATIC NORMALCY - ALONG THE GENERAL LINES OF HUERTA'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS DESCRIBED THE OVERWHELMING SUPPORT WITHIN THAT PARTY FOR THE NECESSITY WHICH IMPELLED THE MILITARY TO ACT. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS ASSURED THE JUNTA THEY WERE CHILEANS FIRST AND PARTY MEMBERS SECOND. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS THEN MADE THE POINT THAT A COMPLETE SUSPENSION OF ACTIVITY BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES WOULD LEAVE THE ROAD OPEN TO A DANGEROUS COMMUNIST MONOPOLY ON POLITICAL ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITY - COVERTLY NOW AND OVERTLY LATER. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS POINTED OUT THAT THEIR OWN PARTY WOULD BE WITHOUT A VOICE AND WITHOUT THE MEANS FOR ORGANIZATION - WHILE THE COMMUNISTS WOULD BE CARRYING FORWARD THEIR CLANDESTINE PLANS, ACTIVITIES AND PUBLICATIONS. THE
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CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS ALSO NOTED THAT THE COMMUNISTS WOULD BE

ABLE TO DISSEMINATE ALL KINDS OF FALSE REPORTS ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, INCLUDING MANUFACTURED STATEMENTS BY LEFT WING CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERS. CERDA SAID THE MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND. "LIKE MILITARY MEN THE WORLD OVER, THEY DID NOT SAY VERY MUCH," HE SAID, BUT AT LEAST THEY "NODDED THEIR HEADS AND SEEMED TO ASSENT." THE JUNTA MEMBERS MADE CLEAR THAT THEY RECOGNIZED THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY AS THE FOREMOST POLITICAL FORCE IN CHILE AND THAT SOME SORT OF DIALOGUE WAS IMPORTANT. CERDA CHARACTERIZED THE MEETING AS - ON THE WHOLE - POSITIVE, USEFUL AND SUCCESSFUL.

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